



Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Metro Manila

Nineteenth Congress
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **7269**



Introduced by Representative Jefferson F. Khonghun

**AN ACT DECLARING LAKE MAPANUEPE LOCATED IN BARANGAY
AGLAO, MUNICIPALITY OF SAN MARCELINO, PROVINCE OF
ZAMBALES, A TOURIST SPOT AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

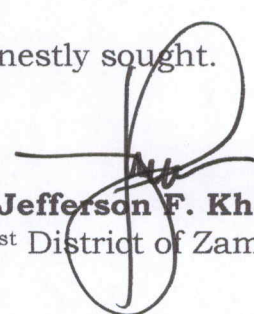
EXPLANATORY NOTE

Dubbed as the New Zealand of the Zambales because of the vast green pastures and lush green grass, Lake Mapanuepe is one of the newest tourist destinations in the Province of Zambales, particularly situated in Barangay Aglao, Municipality of San Marcelino. In addition, the area is surrounded by hills and towering pine trees.

According to its past history, Lake Mapanuepe was formed as an aftermath of the explosion of Mt. Pinatubo in the year 1991. The lahar coming from the volcanic eruption blocks all exit points of water going down the Mapanuepe Valley in Barangay Aglao and Barangay Buhawen as well as the Sto. Tomas River to the west. As a result, the rising waters submerged the Mapanuepe Valley and Lake Mapanuepe comes into existence.

Today, many tourists flock the town of San Marcelino to experience the natural beauty of the lake. As such, it is fitting that Lake Mapanuepe be converted into a tourist spot. Further development of the area will not only attract tourism, but more importantly, conserve the natural beauty of nature found in the area. This will also spur tourism and provide a source of livelihood for the people in surrounding communities.

In view of the forgoing, the approval of this bill is earnestly sought.


Hon. Jefferson F. Khonghun
1st District of Zambales



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*Be it enacted by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the
Philippines in Congress assembled:*

SECTION 1. Lake Mapanuepe, located in Barangay Aglao, Municipality of San Marcelino, Province of Zambales, is hereby declared a tourist spot. As such, its development shall be prioritized by the Department of Tourism (DOT), subject to the rules and regulations governing the development of tourist spots. The DOT shall likewise prioritize the establishment of a tourist center in the area, to be known as the Lake Mapanuepe Tourist Center that shall showcase the historical significance of the lake.

SECTION 2. Within six (6) months after the approval of this Act, the DOT, in coordination with other concerned agencies of the government, shall prepare a tourism development plan consisting, among others, the construction, installation and maintenance of such appropriate facilities and infrastructure that shall encourage tourism in the area: Provided, that said development plan shall ensure the preservation and conservation of the natural beauty and historical significance thereof.

1 **SECTION 3.** The DOT shall take immediate steps to implement the
2 tourism development plan for Lake Mapanuepe and shall incorporate the
3 same in the National Tourism Development Plan.
4

5 **SECTION 4.** The Secretary of the DOT shall include in the Department's
6 program the implementation of this Act, the funding of which shall be
7 included in the annual General Appropriations Act and from internally
8 generated funds of the DOT.
9

10 **SECTION 5.** Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, the
11 Secretary of the DOT shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for
12 the proper implementation of this Act.
13

14 **SECTION 6.** This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
15 publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

16 Approved,